

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OECD PARIS 07997

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, OECD

SUBJECT: HEADS OF DELEGATION DISCUSSION OF OECD
MINISTERIAL AGENDA

1. HEADS OF DELEGATION HAD FIRST DISCUSSION MARCH 26 OF AGENDA FOR MAY 28-29 COUNCIL MINISTERIAL. DISCUSSION WAS BASED ON PROVISIONAL SECRETARIAT DRAFT (C/A(75)) WHICH WAS HAND-CARRIED TO WASHINGTON BY EUR/RPE DIRECTOR PREEG. VAN LENNEP EMPHASIZED THAT DRAFT AGENDA WAS VERY PRELIMINARY AND WOULD REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE REFINEMENT IN WEEKS AHEAD.

2. VAN LENNEP INDICATED THAT AGENDA WAS DRAWN UP WITH PURPOSE OF PROVIDING BASIS FOR FOREIGN MINISTERS TO DISCUSS BROAD POLITICO/ECONOMIC ISSUES OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON FIRST DAY. NOTING THAT IEA MINISTERS WOULD HAVE DISCUSSED COOPERATION IN ENERGY FIELD THE PREVIOUS DAY, HE SUGGESTED THAT OECD MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION OF ENERGY MIGHT CONSIST OF REPORT ON IEA MEETING PLUS FURTHER EXCHANGE OF VIEWS IF DESIRED. TRADE ITEM WAS INTENDED TO INCLUDE TRADE PLEDGE RENEWAL
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AND COMMODITIES ISSUE. ITEM ON RELATIONS WITH LDC'S

WAS MEANT TO GO BEYOND AID QUESTIONS AND COVER ENTIRE SPECTRUM OF DC/LDC RELATIONSHIPS.

3. VAN LENNEP SAID THAT AGENDA ITEM 2 WAS INTENDED TO PROVIDE THE PRIMARILY FINANCE AND ECONOMIC MINISTERS EXPECTED TO ATTEND SECOND DAY AN OPPORTUNITY FOR LESS FORMAL BUT MORE DETAILED DISCUSSION ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, INCLUDING LONGER-TERM QUESTIONS OF GROWTH POTENTIAL, STRUCTURAL ADAPTATION, ETC. HE HOPED THAT FORMAL COUNTRY STATEMENTS WOULD BE CONFINED TO FIRST DAY.

4. VAN LENNEP STATED THAT SOCIAL ARRANGEMENTS WOULD CONSIST OF LUNCHEON AND DINNER THE FIRST DAY.

5. NOTING THAT WE HAVE NO DEFINITIVE WASHINGTON VIEWS ON AGENDA, AMB TURNER OFFERED FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY REACTION TO SECRETARIAT DRAFT:

A) FIRST ITEM SHOULD BE COUCHED IN SUBSTANTIALLY BROADER TERMS TO ALLOW MINISTERS TO DISCUSS BROAD INTERRELATIONSHIP OF POLICY ISSUES ACROSS ENTIRE SPECTRUM OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS. LISTING OF DISCREET ITEMS SUCH AS ENERGY, TRADE, ETC., MIGHT INHIBIT THIS KIND OF DISCUSSION.

B) HEADING OF FIRST ITEM SHOULD BE AMENDED TO INDICATE DISCUSSION OF COOPERATION "AMONG OECD COUNTRIES" RATHER THAN "IN THE OECD", WHICH IMPLIES MORE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR DISCUSSION.

C) WHILE ENERGY IS IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN COMPLEX INTERRELATIONSHIP OF POLICY ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED BY OECD MINISTERS, WE BELIEVE IT NEED NOT BE LISTED SEPARATELY, AND IF IT MUST BE LISTED, THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE LISTED SO PROMINENTLY, SINCE MOST OF MINISTERS WILL HAVE HAD FULL DAY'S DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE THE PREVIOUS DAY.

6. MOST OTHER HEADS OF DEL WHO SPOKE SUPPORTED AMB. TURNER ON DESIRABILITY OF AVOIDING DIVISION OF FIRST ITEM INTO DISCREET ITEMS. SEVERAL DELS, NOTABLY GERMAN, POINTED TO DIFFICULTIES WHICH THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD ENCOUNTER IN DISCUSSION IN DETAIL SUCH ISSUES AS CONFIDENTIAL

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TRADE OR ENERGY WHICH FALL UNDER JURISDICTION OF OTHER MINISTERS.

7. VAN LENNEP INDICATED THAT HE WOULD CIRCULATE REVISED DRAFT AGENDA FOLLOWING DISCUSSION WITH UK MINISTER WHO WILL CHAIR MEETING.
TURNER

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